

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 13, 14, and 16-27 were pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 21-27 are canceled by way of this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. Of the currently pending claims, claim 13 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 13.

Election/Restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and 35 U.S.C. § 372

In the Action, the Examiner issued an election/restriction requirement requiring Applicants to elect one of three groups: Group 1 containing claims 1-4, 6-8, 21, and 24; Group II containing claims 13, 14, 16-20, 22, and 23; and Group III containing claims 25-27. *See* page 2 of the Action. Applicants hereby elect Group II including claims 13, 14, and 16-20¹, for continued examination without traverse.

Conclusion

Applicants believe this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed

¹ Applicants respectfully note that claims 22 and 23 are indirectly dependent on claim 1, and therefore should be included with Group 1. Accordingly, claims 22 and 23 are canceled by way of this reply.

Application No.: 10/586,128

Docket No.: 09669/092001

below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09669/092001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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